

of Italian-American Organizations of Queens, NY, a group that this year celebrates its 25th anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing and honoring this very important organization for its dedicated services to the Queens community.

The mission of the Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Queens is unique. It works to transform social clubs into activist organizations. To this end, the federation encourages the clubs' attention to the problems of the Italian-American community. It assists members in becoming citizens of the United States and educates them to the rights guaranteed by the American Constitution. The federation's goal is that with the status and knowledge, they may more effectively advocate for and serve their community.

The federation encourages the unification of Italian-American societies in Queens, New York, a borough of New York City with a very high Italian-American population. It seeks to maintain and promote a higher involvement in social and political issues; to teach the belief and ideals of the United States; to fight against discrimination and derogatory stereotyping; and to provide assistance, support, and cultural betterment to its members, among several other goals. It has been very successful in these pursuits. I am pleased to report that the federation currently assists approximately 10,000 individuals and families every year.

The federation was founded in 1971 by four friends: Anthony Gazzara, Vincent Iannece, Tom Bullaro, and Phil Ciccariello. Their original goal was to bring together the active Italian-American societies in Astoria, Queens, and to revive the traditional parade in honor of Christopher Columbus.

Although poor weather prevented the parade in that first year, nevertheless the federation has flourished and today consists of at least 22 Italian-American societies in Queens. Through the pursuit of its goals, it has become a valuable instrument for addressing the needs and problems of the Italian-American community in Queens.

Mr. Speaker, in the year of its 25th anniversary, I am proud to rise in honor of the Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Queens. It is a truly venerable institution in its community and very worthy of the collective tribute of this body here today. Thank you.

#### HONORING THE MONROE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 1996*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Monroe Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study

the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

#### TRIBUTE TO FANNIE MAE FOUNDATION AND THE NBA'S HOUSTON ROCKETS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 1996*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday afternoon, April 10, 1996, Fannie Mae Foundation and Clyde Drexler and Chucky Brown, star players with the back-to-back World Champion Houston Rockets, joined together in their second Work Day to increase home ownership and rehabilitate Houston's neighborhoods.

The Home Team partnership was designed to revitalize Houston's neighborhoods and to provide home buying information to help more Houstonians achieve their dream of home ownership.

Houston's "Home Team" and the Fannie Mae Foundation held a ribbon-cutting welcome home ceremony at two newly-landscaped homes which Rockets and Fannie Mae Foundation employees began constructing last December in Houston's Fifth Ward neighborhood located in the 18th Congressional District. The new homeowners are single parents and first-time home buyers.

The Work Day was led by my friend, J.J. Smith, who heads up Fannie Mae's partnership office. Fifth Ward Redevelopment Corp., a local nonprofit organization dedicated to providing housing to lower income and first-time home buyers—also deserves credit for this partnership. They are the true heroes behind this effort.

The best part of this story is that Houston has two new homeowners, setting the precedent that home ownership is possible for other local families. I will continue to support the good work of the Fannie Mae Foundation, and recognize the valuable time the Rockets players and staff take out of their busy schedules to make a difference in the lives of our local families and send the message that the American dream of ownership is possible for every family.

HAMDEN TEACHER RETIRING  
AFTER 40 YEARS OF DEDICATED  
SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 1996*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this 1995-96 academic year, Barbara Reiber will retire from the Hamden Public School System after 40 years of dedicated service. As a committed high school teacher, she has worked tirelessly to educate students, and engage them in their community. It is with tremendous pleasure that I rise today to salute this incredible individual, who means so much to me and has contributed so much to the town of Hamden.

Barbara's dedication to expanding the minds of high school students is illustrated by a lifetime of public service. Her career has involved teaching U.S. history, world history, and Third World history as a teacher in the social studies department at Hamden High School. In addition, she has been extremely active in curriculum and staff development throughout her 40 years in the system.

Most characteristic of Barbara, however, has been her tremendous energy and generosity in contributing to extracurricular activities at Hamden High School. She has recognized the importance of developing young leaders, and expanding their education through community involvement. Throughout her career she has supported and strengthened several student organizations. Having served as advisor to the student council and human relations club, Barbara enhanced the awareness and leadership skills of many Hamden High School students.

During the past 2 years Barbara has been very supportive of an initiative that is of special significance to me, the Anti-Crime Youth Council. Without the commitment and effort of people like her, this regional organization, which involves high school students in projects to tackle issues related to youth violence, would never have developed. Time and time again she offered energy and ideas to this organization, and was dedicated to engaging Hamden High School students in the process. She recognized the value of creating opportunities for teenagers to address common problems at a regional level, and worked closely with my staff to organize Anti-Crime Youth Council activities.

It is exactly this commitment to community that distinguishes the career of Barbara Reiber and it is with great pleasure that I commend her for 40 years of achievement and service to our community. I join her colleagues, and her friends and family members in thanking Barbara for caring so much for Hamden's youth, and in wishing her a very enjoyable retirement.

#### WARM WELCOME TO EAST JESSAMINE MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. SCOTTY BAESLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 1996*

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the newly formed